REMARKS

Applicants have received the Office Action mailed April 4, 2007. Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 16 and 17. Claims 1-5, and 8-19 are pending, of which claims 1, 16 and 17 are independent.

Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank Examiners Rimell and Lewis for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of May 1, 2007, during which Applicants' representative and the examiners discussed the Swan reference vis-à-vis claim 1. In particular, Examiners Rimell and Lewis indicated that amendments which distinguished "one or more ... text characters [that] specify a first name identifier, one or more ... text characters [that] specify a second name identifier, and one or more ... text characters [that] specify a relationship between the first name identifier and the second name identifier" from an email address would overcome the Swan reference. Applicants' representative and Examiners Rimell and Lewis further discussed Applicants' intention in the previous response to Office Action of reciting a method that performs certain actions based on input received from a *single* text-entry search field. The examiners suggested amending the claims to further clarify that input is received from a single text-entry search field.

Applicants have attempted to adopt the examiners suggestions in amending the claims, which Applicants believe to be in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the amendments and the remarks that follow.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 and 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0093317 ("Swan"). Without conceding the propriety of the current rejection, Applicants have, in order to expedite prosecution, amended the independent claims in manner that is believed to be consistent with the examiners' suggestions provided in the above-referenced telephone interview.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites that "the relationship is selected from the group consisting of a role of an individual in an organization, a physical location associated with the

first name identifier or the second name identifier, and a business contact of an organization corresponding to the first name identifier or the second name identifier."

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including, for example, at page 6, lines 10-12 and at page 8, lines 21-24. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Swan clearly does not anticipate claim 1 as amended. In particular, Swan neither describes nor suggests a way for an end user to enter "one or more ... text characters [that] specify a first name identifier" and "one or more ... text characters [that] specify a second name identifier" and "one or more ... text characters [that] specify a relationship between the first name identifier and the second name identifier," in "a single text-entry field of a user interface associated with a database," where "the relationship is selected from the group consisting of a role of an individual in an organization, a physical location associated with the first name identifier or the second name identifier, and a business contact of an organization corresponding to the first name identifier or the second name identifier."

Swan also does not render amended claim 1 obvious. In particular, the method recited by amended claim 1 gives rise to significant advantages that are neither possible nor contemplated by Swan. For example, the method of amended claim 1 permits a user to submit one search request, from a "single text-entry field." "By specifying this information in one search request, the user does not need to enter a series of manual selections in order to obtain a desired set of search results." (See the specification filed on March 25, 2004, at page 2, lines 13-15.) Moreover, permitting the user to enter a search request in a "single text-entry field" can enable, in some implementations, a very simple, small search interface; in contrast, the user interface depicted in FIG. 10 of Swan is much larger, which, in some implementations, consumes far more real estate in a corresponding user interface.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims 2-5 and 8-15 are patentable over Swan and ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on Swan. Amended independent claim 16 recites similar language as that discussed above with respect to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 16 is also patentable over Swan for the reasons provided with reference to amended claim 1, and Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection based on Swan of claim 16.

Claim 17 has been amended in a manner believed to be consistent with the examiners' suggestion to further clarify receiving input from a single text-entry search field. Support for the amendments can be found in the originally filed specification, for example, at page 6, lines 24-25, in FIG. 2, and in the original claims filed March 25, 2004. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In particular, as amended, claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a system that is operable to "provide a user interface associated with a database, the user interface having a *single text-entry search field*" and "accept a search request from *the single text-entry search field* of the user interface associated with a database, the search request comprising a plurality of text characters, wherein one or more of the text characters specify a first name identifier, one or more of the text characters specify a second name identifier, and one or more of the text characters specify a relationship between the first name identifier and the second name identifier."

As Applicants previously argued, Swan does not describe or suggest "accepting a search request from a single text-entry field of a user interface associated with a database, the search request comprising a plurality of text characters, wherein one or more of the text characters specify a first name identifier, one or more of the text characters specify a second name identifier, and one or more of the text characters specify a relationship between the first name identifier and the second name identifier."

In the telephone interview, Examiners Rimell and Lewis asserted that an email address would meet the recited language above. This assertion is not supported by a proper interpretation of the claim language. "[One] cannot look at the ordinary meaning of the term … in a vacuum. Rather, [one] must look at the ordinary meaning of the term in the context of the written description and the prosecution history." Phillips v. AWH Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 1313 (Fed. Cir. 2005), quoting Medrad, Inc. v. MRI Devices Corp., 401 F.3d 1313, 1319 (Fed. Cir. 2005). In the context of the written description, Applicants clearly meant "one or more … text characters [that] specify a first name identifier, one or more … text characters [that] specify a second name identifier, and one or more … text characters [that] specify a relationship between the first name identifier and the second name identifier" to comprise a search request that was not merely an email address.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17, in its currently amended form, clearly recites receiving a search request from a single (i.e., exactly one) text-entry search field, wherein

the search request comprises particular elements, which, when properly interpreted are neither present in nor suggested by Swan.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 17 and the corresponding dependent claims 18 and 19 are patentable over Swan and ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on Swan.
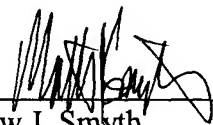
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-5, and 8-19 are in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner allow them.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to this amendment.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:_____MAY 30, 2007_____   _____

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